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Lori Wright
UNH Media Relations

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Contact: [Lori Wright](#)
603-862-4650
Communications Director
The Carsey Institute
University of New Hampshire

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DURHAM, N.H. – The Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire will release new data on child poverty in rural America Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2007. The research will coincide with the release of new information from the U.S. Census on child poverty rates nationally.

The Carsey Institute's research will provide rural child poverty figures nationally and provide a state-by-state breakdown of changes in rural child poverty rates.

In addition, William P. O'Hare, Carsey Institute Rural Fellow, and Sarah Savage, Carsey Institute Evaluation Fellow, will be available to discuss the new research on child poverty in rural America.

Reporters who would like to receive the Carsey Institute's analysis of rural child poverty rates on Aug. 28 and/or would like to speak with Carsey rural child poverty experts that day to discuss the analysis should contact Lori Wright in advance at 603-862-4650 or lori.wright@unh.edu.

In 2006, the Carsey Institute's analysis of rural child poverty data showed that rates of rural child poverty had increased in 41 states since 2000. The 2006 analysis is available at http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/rural_child_poverty_fact_sheet.pdf.

"Our research has shown that children growing up in rural America are more at risk of living in poverty than children in urban areas. Rural families are struggling with sweeping demographic, economic and environmental changes in their communities. But because rural America is not homogeneous, solutions for alleviating child poverty in rural communities must address the specific challenges in each area," said Cynthia M. Duncan, director of the Carsey Institute.

"Today there are three rural Americas, sometimes distinct and sometimes overlapping, each with its own challenges: amenity-rich areas, declining resource-dependent areas and chronically poor communities. These conditions influence how communities address the issues they face amid a changing rural landscape," Duncan said.

The child poverty rate is the most widely used indicator of child well-being because poverty is closely linked to undesirable outcomes in areas such as health, education, emotional welfare, and delinquency. Changes in child poverty signal important changes in children's quality of life

and life chances.

The Carsey Institute conducts research and analysis on the challenges facing rural families and communities in New Hampshire, New England, and the nation. The Carsey Institute sponsors independent, interdisciplinary research that documents trends and conditions affecting families and communities, providing valuable information and analysis to policymakers, practitioners, the media, and the general public. Through this work, the Carsey Institute contributes to public dialogue on policies that encourage social mobility and sustain healthy, equitable communities. The Carsey Institute was established in May 2002 with a generous gift from UNH alumna and noted television producer Marcy Carsey.

News Release: <http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/press-release-new8-17-07.html>.

